Please make the following amendments in the Specification:

Page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 12, replace with the following rewritten paragraphs:

~~Figure 1. (A)~~ Figures 1A-1B. Figure 1B. Schematic representation of the evolution *in vitro* procedures to select RNA analogs that bind to HCMV particles. The pool of DNA molecules contained a randomized sequence of 40 nucleotides indicated as N. (Figure 1B) Increased binding affinity of the populations of RNA analogs during selection from cycle 0 to cycle 16. Binding assays were carried out with different concentrations of virus and a trace amount (<100 fmol) of ligands. The values of binding affinity were calculated by dividing the percentage of bound ligands with the concentration of HCMV used (μg protein /ml). Each point represents the mean of duplicate measurements.

~~Figure 2.~~ Figures 2A-2B Binding affinity of the selected ligands to HCMV. (Figure 2A). 1 nM of different selected ligands were allowed to bind to different concentrations of HCMV particles. The values for the percentage of binding represent the mean of triplicate experiments and are not significantly different when 0.1 nM-5nM of ligands were used in the binding assays. (Figure 2B). 1 nM of radiolabeled L13 was allowed to bind to $1x10^5$ pfu/ml (about 30 μg viral protein/ml) HCMV in the presence of different concentrations of unlabeled L13, L19, G_0, and $tRNA^{ser}$. The level of binding of L13 was calculated as the ratio of the percentage of bound radiolabeled L13 in the presence of other ligands over that obtained in the absence of these ligands. The values are the means of triplicate experiments. A value of 100% indicated that there was no competition between the binding of L13 and the other ligand molecules to HCMV.

~~Figure 3~~. Figures 3A-3D. Effect of the ligands on plaque formation (Figure 3A and Figure 3C) and particle production (Figure 3B and Figure 3D). $1x10^5$ pfu/ml HCMV (AD169) or HSV-1 (F) was incubated in DMEM media alone or in the presence of different concentrations of G_0, L13, L19 at 37°C for 15 mins before used to infect HFFs at MOI of 0.005 (for plaque assay) or 0.3 (for titer assay). The levels of viral titer and plaque formation were calculated as the ratio of the titers and plaque numbers assayed from experiments with HCMV incubated in the presence of the ligands over those from experiments with HCMV incubated in DMEM alone, respectively. The values are the means of triplicate experiments.--

Page 4, line 29, to page 5, line 6, replace with the following paragraph:

--~~Figure 9~~ Figures 9A-9D. Effect of the ligands on plaque formation (A and C) and particle production (B and D) of HCMV (AD169) (A and B) and herpes simplex virus 1 (F) (C and D) in human foreskin fibroblasts (HFFs). $1x10^5$ PFU/ml HCMV (AD169) or HSV-1 (F) was incubated in DMEM media alone or in the presence of different concentrations of G_0, L31, L66 at 37°C for 15 mins before

being used to infect HFFs at MOI of 0.02 (for plaque assay) or 0.5 (for titer assay). The levels of viral titer and plaque formation were calculated as the ratio of the titers and plaque numbers assayed from experiments with HCMV incubated in the presence of the ligands over those from experiments with HCMV incubated in DMEM alone, respectively. The values are the means from triplicate experiments.